

# stimulus news DIGEST

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## Recovery Project News

**Stimulus Saved 6,000 Education Jobs in L.A., Report Says:** Some 250,000 education jobs have been saved or created by the economic stimulus package, according to a White House report released Monday. The news previews what will be a more comprehensive accounting to be posted by the Recovery Accountability and Transparency Board on its website next week. "There is a lot more work to be done, but we applaud those districts that have successfully used stimulus funding to stave off catastrophic layoffs and invest in critical reforms," Secretary of Education Arne Duncan said in a statement. Of the \$97.4 billion in education funding included in the stimulus bill, \$67.6 billion has been spent. According to the report, more than 6,000 education jobs in Los Angeles were saved by stimulus funds. (*"Stimulus Saved 6,000 Education Jobs in L.A., Report Says," Los Angeles Times, 10/20/09*)

**SMUD Awarded \$4M Solar Energy Grant:** The Sacramento Municipal Utility District has been awarded \$4 million in federal grant funding to expand Sacramento's use of solar energy, and the California Community Colleges Board of Governors has won a \$3.5 million grant for job-training in the solar industry. SMUD will use the funding to continue its pilot program researching solar energy use in homes. SMUD aims to determine how well energy storage systems can support the utility's peak hours, between 4 and 7 p.m., when the output from photovoltaic systems tends to drop off. The \$3.5 million grant for the California Community Colleges Board of Governors will go toward the administration of a California Solar Training Partnership. (*"SMUD Awarded \$4M Solar Energy Grant," Sacramento Business Journal, 10/19/09*)

**W.H. Says Stimulus Saved 250K Jobs:** Federal stimulus dollars saved more than 250,000 teaching and education jobs this year, the White House claimed on Monday. While the recession forced state and local governments to trim educating spending, the cuts would have been far deeper without the stimulus cash, according to the report released by the White House Domestic Policy

Council. More than \$100 billion of the \$787 billion in stimulus funds Congress approved earlier this year will eventually be allocated to education-related fields, the report said. (*"W.H. Says Stimulus Saved 250K Jobs," The Hill News, 10/19/09*)

**\$1.8 M in Stimulus Goes to Brownfields' Jobs:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) announced \$5 million in grants and low-interest loans that will help bring hundreds of jobs to the San Francisco Bay Area and turn contaminated property into land for apartments, retail shops, day care centers and a park. Funds for the revitalization work will come from the \$1.8 million in federal stimulus money DTSC received from EPA over the summer, along with money from the department's Revolving Loan Fund Program. Some of the San Francisco projects include: lead-contaminated land at 2235 Third Street will be cleaned up using a \$1.675 million low-interest loan, delivered through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The project will create about 200 new construction jobs for two years. Other projects include land cleanup for future housing, parks and retail spaces. (*"\$1.8 M in Stimulus Goes to Brownfields' Jobs," Environmental Protection News, 10/19/09*)

**Big Study of Young Brains Funded by Stimulus Grant of Nearly \$9 Million to UC San Diego:** Thanks to a grant of \$8,950,590 provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), researchers at the University of California San Diego looking for the biological bases of differences in human behavior will use sophisticated gene-mapping tools and imaging technology to collect a wealth of data about brain development in children. The UC San Diego-based project, which involves 10 sites throughout the country, is expected to create approximately 25 new jobs. (*"Big Study of Young Brains Funded by Stimulus Grant of Nearly \$9 Million to UC San Diego," Medical News Today, 10/17/09*)

**\$900k Approved for Highway 132:** State transportation officials Thursday approved \$900,000 for studies to improve Highway 132. Local leaders want to create a \$295 million, four-lane expressway skirting the heart of Modesto, from the Beard Industrial Tract to a point about three miles west of town, with minimal stops in between. The award is minuscule compared with \$37.2 million handed to Merced County projects by California Department of Transportation commissioners. The money pays for landscaping along Highway 99 near Livingston and Merced and overpass improvements in Merced. (*"\$900k Approved for Highway 132," Modesto Bee, 10/15/09*)

**Tree Foundation to Receive Funding for Jobs:** A non-profit group that promotes an "urban forest" through programs to plant and maintain trees is likely to receive a \$750,000 federal stimulus grant to hire additional staffers. The Sacramento Tree Foundation has been selected to receive the American Recovery and Reinvestment grant and is ironing out the details for how it plans to use the money. The federal stimulus dollars will be distributed through the U.S. Forest Service and will be administered through California ReLeaf, a Davis-based environmental group. The funding is for jobs, but the total number of positions and the job descriptions have not yet been settled. The foundation wants to use the money to hire four staffers. Resources such as equipment and vehicles to carry out the work would also be part of the proposal for the \$750,000 in funding. (*"Tree Foundation to Receive Funding for Jobs," Sacramento Press, 10/15/09*)

**Riverside County: \$1.4 Million in Federal Funds to Caltrans Transportation Projects:** About \$1.4 million in federal economic stimulus funds was allocated to Caltrans to map and inventory archeological sites in Riverside County and elsewhere in the Inland Empire. The money is part of \$53 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funding announced today for transportation projects in Riverside, San Bernardino, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Santa Clara and Alpine counties. The Riverside project will enable Caltrans to maintain an inventory of important archeological sites in Riverside and San Bernardino counties. The inventory will require hiring experts in geology, archeology and GIS technology. California leads the nation with more than \$2 billion in Recovery Act funding. (*"Riverside County: \$1.4 Million in Federal Funds to Caltrans Transportation Projects," Southwest Riverside News Network, 10/15/09*)

**Lawrence Berkeley Lab Scores \$16M Stimulus Funding for Cloud Computing Study:** Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory will split \$32 million in government stimulus research funding with Argonne National Laboratory for studies of cloud computing. The Department of Energy is paying for the study, which will look at how cloud computing — growing in popularity in business — can be used by scientists. Cloud computing means dividing up computer power between many shared devices, giving users "on demand" access. The idea is to increase the size of shared departmental computer resources to reap economies of scale. (*"Lawrence Berkeley Lab Scores \$16M Stimulus Funding for Cloud Computing Study," San Francisco Business Journal, 10/14/09*)

**Tri-Valley Cities Awarded \$900,000 in Stimulus Funds:** The cities of Pleasanton and Livermore have been awarded a \$900,000 grant from federal stimulus money to fund homeless prevention and housing efforts. The grant will help families with incomes of less than \$42,050 for a family of four. Such services will include paying one-time back rent and utility bills, and housing for individuals and families that are currently homeless. The Tri-Valley cities are working with each county jurisdiction to create a county-wide implementation system that is accessible, eliminates duplication of services and provides common outcome data with measurable results. (*"Tri-Valley Cities Awarded \$900,000 in Stimulus Funds," Pleasanton Weekly, 10/14/09*)

**Job Data to Show Stimulus Aided Teachers Most:** President Obama's stimulus plan spared tens of thousands of teachers from losing their jobs, state officials said amid a nationwide effort to calculate the effect of Washington's \$787 billion recovery package. State officials around the United States worked to meet a Saturday reporting deadline for the most ambitious effort to calculate in real time the effect of a government spending program. From 11 jobs repaving a road in Caldwell, Texas, to one job at Utah food banks, to two forensic scientist positions in North Dakota, states were required to say exactly what became of billions in government aid. The national data won't be available until later this month. But based on information from a handful of states, teachers appear to have benefited most from early spending because the stimulus sent billions of dollars to help stabilize state budgets, sparing what would have been teacher layoffs. (*"Job Data to Show Stimulus Aided Teachers Most," San Francisco Chronicle, 10/14/09*)

